



HR1020

LRB098 20927 GRL 58574 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to honor the life and accomplishments of Bishop Louis Henry Ford; and

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WHEREAS, Louis Ford was born on May 23, 1914 in Clarksdale, Mississippi; he married Margaret Little in December of 1934; they had 2 children, Charles and Janet; and

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WHEREAS, Louis Ford founded St. Paul Church Of God in Christ in May of 1935; in the fall of 1941, he purchased Clarke House, Chicago's oldest house, on 4526 South Wabash, which served as St. Paul's church until 1945, when a new structure was built and dedicated at 4528 South Wabash; and

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WHEREAS, Starting in 1935, the work of St. Paul's Church Of God in Christ Community Service Outreach Ministries, ably led by Louis Ford, was intensified; its members led the fight to increase minority presence on police and fire departments, improve housing, and create other employment opportunities; in 1955, he served as a spiritual advisor to Mamie Till Moseley, the mother of Emmett Till, and delivered the eulogy "Vengeance Is Mine" at Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ; in 1966, he organized buses for members and community residents to attend the civil rights rally at Soldier Field where Dr. Martin Luther

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1 King, Jr. spoke; and

2 WHEREAS, From 1977 to 1979, Louis Ford served as a board
3 member of the Cook County Jail Department of Corrections; as a
4 board member, he was a strong proponent of job training
5 programs for inmates and a vocal supporter of Director Winston
6 Moore; and

7 WHEREAS, From 1990 to 1995, Louis Ford served as Presiding
8 Bishop of Church of God in Christ, Inc.; during this time, he
9 was also named annually one of Ebony Magazine's 100 most
10 influential African-Americans; in 1992, he invited
11 then-Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton to address the COGIC Spring
12 Meeting and Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee; in December of
13 1994, he was invited to stay overnight in the Lincoln Room of
14 the White House as a guest of President and Mrs. Clinton; and

15 WHEREAS, Louis Ford passed away on March 31, 1995; in July
16 of 1996, the Calumet Expressway on Interstate 94 was renamed in
17 honor of him for his work in his community and society at
18 large; and

19 WHEREAS, Louis Ford served as a model of hard work,
20 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
21 Illinois; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we honor the life and accomplishments of Bishop Louis Henry
4 Ford; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Louis Ford as a symbol of our esteem
7 and respect.